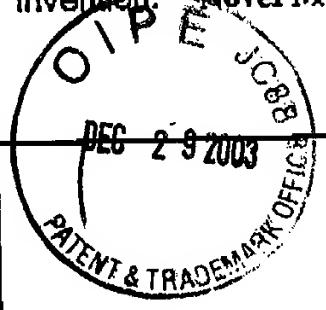
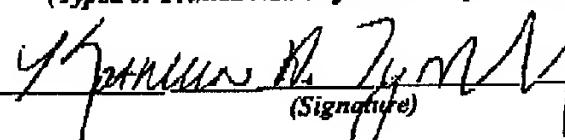


CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION BY FACSIMILE (37 CFR 1.8)			Docket No. DEX-0054
Applicant(s): Robbins et al.			
Serial No. 09/426,548	Filing Date October 22, 1999	Examiner Woitach, Joseph T.	Group Art Unit 1632
Invention: Novel Mutation in Human MLH1 and Human MSH2 Genes Useful in Diagnosing Colorectal Cancer			
 DEC 29 2003 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE			
I hereby certify that this <u>Preliminary Amendment and Petition for Extension of Time</u> <small>(Identify type of correspondence)</small> is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax. No. <u>703-872-9307</u>) on <u>December 23, 2003</u> <small>(Date)</small>			
<u>Kathleen A. Tyrrell</u> <small>(Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate)</small>  <small>(Signature)</small>			
Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.			

COMBINED AMENDMENT & PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF
TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) (Large Entity)Docket No.
DEX-0054

The fee for the amendment and extension of time is to be paid as follows:

A check in the amount of \$950.00 for the amendment and extension of time is enclosed.

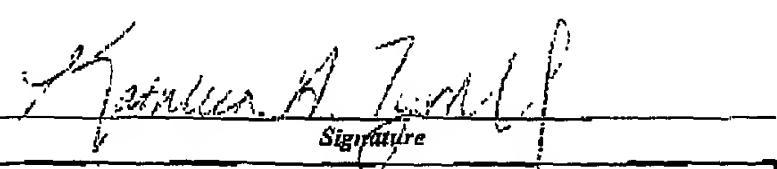
Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-1619 in the amount of \$950.00

The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1619

Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.

Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.

If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor and charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-1619


 Signature
 Kathleen A. Tyrrell, Registration No. 38,350

 LICATA & TYRRELL P.C.
 66 East Main Street
 Marlton, New Jersey 08053
 Tel: 856-810-1515
 Fax: 856-810-1454

Dated: December 23, 2003

I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on [redacted] with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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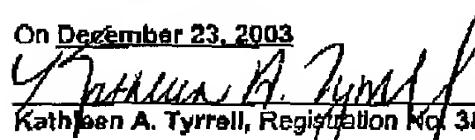
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No.: **DEX-0054**
Inventors: **Robbins et al.**
Serial No.: **09/426,548**
Filing Date: **October 22, 1999**
Examiner: **Woitach, Joseph T.**
Group Art Unit: **1632**
Title: **Novel Mutation in Human MLH1 and Human MSH2 Genes Useful in Diagnosing Colorectal Cancer**

Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this document is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

On December 23, 2003


Kathleen A. Tyrrell, Registration No. 38,350

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Preliminary Amendment

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed in response to the recent Advisory Action wherein the Examiner refused to enter the amendment filed September 30, 2003. This Preliminary Amendment addresses issues raised in this Advisory Action as well as the Office Action mailed June 30, 2003. A Request for Continued Examination, a Petition for a three (3) month extension of time,

Attorney Docket No.: **DEX-0054**
Inventors: **Robbins et al.**
Serial No.: **09/426,548**
Filing Date: **October 22, 1999**
Page 2

and the requisite fees are provided herewith. Please enter the following amendments and remarks into the record.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6.